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MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES.

Baltimore, February, 1893.

THE TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE

Modern Language Association of America.

THE Tenth Annual Convention of THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA met in the halls of the Columbian University in Washington on the morning of December 28, 1892, and held its sessions during the three days following. The last two conventions have been held in Washington, and, from their success, it seems wise that it has been decided to hold the next meeting there also.

The subjects of the papers at this meeting were of great interest and variety, extending over a large field of modern languages.

The President of the Association, Professor Francis A. March, of Lafayette College, Pa., called the Convention to order. President J. C. Welling, of the Columbian University, extended on the part of the University a welcome to the Association. After reports by the Secretary and the Treasurer and the appointment of committees, Prof. J. W. Pearce, of Tulane University, La., read the first paper.

"Did King Alfred translate the *Historia Ecclesiastica*?" was the question discussed by Prof. Pearce. The differences of the various translations ascribed to Alfred were considered, and the Mercian dialectic peculiarities discovered by Miller in the '*Historia*', with their significance, were mentioned. The diverse methods employed in different portions of the '*Historia*' itself, such as different translations of *dignus*, *præesse*, *octo*, *novem*, were indicated.

Prof. Pearce's conclusion was that the work was probably done by several translators, to whom it was apportioned by Alfred. The writer was not prepared to define the work of each translator, but the *Præfatio* was done by one who had no part in the remainder of the work.

Points involved in the paper were discussed in an interesting way by Dr. Bright, Professor Greene, President March, and Prof. Elliott.

Professor C. H. Ross, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, read the

second paper—a careful and exhaustive treatise on the "Absolute Participle in Middle and Modern English." The work is a sequel to Prof. Morgan Callaway's well-known dissertation on the same construction for the Anglo-Saxon period. Prof. Ross found that the use of the absolute participle practically ceased in the first Middle English period. The influence of French and Italian in its revival was traced, and the gradual increase of the construction was statistically shown. The change of the substantive with the participle from the dative to the nominative case, with the reasons therefor, were considered, and it was concluded that the case used is really a "dative absolute in disguise." A discussion of the stylistic effect of the absolute construction closed the paper.—This contribution was discussed by Professors Garnett, Greene, March, Hatfield, Pearce, and Dr. Bright.

The second session was begun by Professor George Hempl, of the University of Michigan, reading a paper on the "Sources of Udall's *Roisterdoister*." Only portions of the paper were read, but the main point was, rather reversing the old opinion, that Udall's first and chief source was Terence's *Eunuch*, and that '*Miles Gloriosus*' of Plautus was a secondary source to fill the *lacunæ* left by the other.

Prof. Hempl could not give his arguments in full, and those who discussed the paper—Dr. Bright and Dr. Gudeman—were inclined to maintain the traditional claims of Plautus as the chief source.

Prof. John Phelps Fruit, of Bethel College, Ky., read the next paper on "The Gardener's Daughter; or, the Pictures." The paper was a practical exposition of Prof. Fruit's method of teaching literature; which is, in brief, to take first an outline view of a masterpiece, and to approach the details by gradual steps from this.

This paper, as Prof. Greene, in opening the discussion, said, invited rather reflection than discussion, and reminded one of the time when, at the meetings of the Association, pedagogical subjects were predominant.

"The Legend of the Holy Grail" was the subject treated by Prof. George M. Harper, of

Princeton College, N. J. The subject was considered in the light of the recent researches by Nutt and Rhys. This investigation has shown the Celtic origin of the story, the legend of Joseph of Arimathea, grafted on later, becoming, however, the soul of the legend. The Grail and the Christian elements grew in importance until Tennyson and Wagner idealized the chivalric elements.

Dr. F. M. Warren, of Adelbert College, Ohio, in opening the discussion, said that its subject was the most difficult question in literary history. German critics deny *in toto* the results of this paper. Dr. Matzke continued the discussion.

In the evening of the first day of the Convention, at 8 o'clock, Prof. Francis A. March, LL. D., President of the Association, gave a pleasing address on "Recollections of Language Teaching." It was the story of the changes in methods of teaching from Professor March's own school-days until the present time. The contrasts brought out were interesting.

The first session of the second day was begun with a paper by Prof. H. E. Greene, of Wells College, N. Y., on "A Grouping of Figures of Speech, based upon the Principle of their Effectiveness." The figures were considered in the order in which they tax the imagination; that is, in which they are removed from the literally true—true according to the understanding. Allegory draws most severely upon the imagination, and stands in this sense highest in the scale. Metaphor is practically most important.

Prof. Fruit opened the discussion. He considers the effectiveness of figures dependent upon the nature of the composition.

Dr. Bright found twenty figures in six lines of Prof. Greene's synopsis, though, according to rhetoric, there are none: these are unconscious figures. An interesting question bearing upon their effectiveness is: Which figures tend most to unconsciousness?

Dr. E. S. Lewis, of Princeton College, N. J., read the next paper on "Guernsey: Its People and Dialect." An interesting description was given of the physical features of the island, and of the life and manners of the people. Only a few dialectic peculiarities were noticed.

Prof. Elliott, in discussing the paper, said that Dr. Lewis had given only a few hints of his scientific-specialist's work on the dialect. This dialect is interesting, because we have several distinct speech currents mingling here.

"The Burlesque Ballad in Germany" was the subject of a paper by Dr. C. von Klenze, of Cornell University. The burlesque ballad, imported into Germany by Gleim, in 1750, is an exponent of the artificiality of the time and a parody of the *Volkslied*. The *Volkslied* is distinguished by sincerity, directness of style, completeness—an exponent of the nation; the burlesque ballad was an exponent of the individual, and it was characterized by silliness, low wit, lasciviousness. Bürger revived the spirit of the *Volkslied*, and issued a strong protest against the spirit of the burlesque ballad in "Lenore."

Prof. von Jagemann, in opening the discussion, wished that Dr. von Klenze might have continued the subject down to the present day: at fairs and festivals such ballads are still sung.

Dr. von Klenze thought the difference in these productions was that the eighteenth century writers considered their work lasting—true poetry.

Dr. Wood agreed with Prof. von Jagemann, and thought Dr. von Klenze ought to have distinguished more clearly between burlesque poetry and popular poetry, and ought to have defined burlesque: without this the subject has no definite limits.

The afternoon session was begun with a paper by Prof. T. Logie, of Williams College, on "Manuscript 24310, and other MSS. in the Paris National Library which contain French metrical versions of the Fables of Walter of England." The paper opened with a general account of the interest in fables from the time of Phædrus; then followed a consideration of the works of Robert, Oesterley, De Ménil, Mall, Hervieux, and Jacobs. A description of the MSS. containing French translations from the Latin of Walter of England was given, and the relation of the four MSS. discussed. The paper was concluded with a consideration of the value of MS. 24310, and some notes upon it.

The paper was discussed by Prof. Elliott, Prof. Gerber, and Dr. Matzke.

The last paper of the second day was on "Erasmus' Works, especially the *Encomium Moriae* and the *Colloquies* as Sources of Rabelais' political, religious, and literary Satire" by Dr. Herman Schönfeld, Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Schönfeld spoke first of the importance of this investigation, owing to the wide influence of Rabelais on the world's literature. The *a posteriori* evidence for the influence of Erasmus over Rabelais was—Rabelais' having studied Erasmus; a letter of Rabelais to Erasmus Nov. 30, 1532; similar results from their education; both made the same enemies; works of both secretly published with forged interpolations. *A priori* evidence is the analogous thought and form in the writings of both—both humanists; analogy of systems of education; satirical writings of both deal with—*a.* kings and nobles; *b.* popes and prelates; *c.* cloisters, and scholastic schools and teachers; *d.* church institutions; *e.* judges and physicians.

Dr. Schönfeld read only portions of his work, consequently in the discussion, lead by Prof. Fontaine, some exceptions were taken to his conclusions.

The first paper on the third day of the meeting was on "The Tales of Uncle Remus traced to the Old World" by Prof. A. Gerber, Earlham College, Ind. The two most prominent theories to account for the coincidences in the folk-tales of different countries are migration and accidental agreement. A considerable number of the tales of Uncle Remus bear so close a resemblance to the tales found in Africa or Europe that they must have been imported from those countries. This makes it probable that the majority of the other tales in which similarity is noticeable have the same origin. Accordingly, the theory of migration ought to be more generally accepted, at least as far as the animal tales are concerned.

Prof. F. M. Warren, in opening the discussion, referred to his work in tracing some of these tales to the 'Roman de Renart.' He found many so closely related that they must have been translated from the French. The discussion was continued by Profs. Garner and Hennemann.

Prof. J. B. Henneman, of Hampden-Sidney College, read the next paper on "The His-

torical Study of English in Virginia." The paper was a special consideration of the work of Thomas Jefferson in Virginia, and of Louis F. Klipstein in Virginia and South Carolina. The latter was a Virginian by birth, not a German, as Wülcker would make him. The paper, of which only part was read, closed with a general sketch of the historical study of English in Virginia colleges and universities.

Dr. Henneman's paper was discussed by Prof. Garnett, who traced still further the study of English at the University of Virginia.

The morning session was closed with a paper by Prof. Sylvester Primer, of the University of Texas, on "Lessing's Religious Development with special reference to his Nathan the Wise." Prof. Primer's paper was divided into two parts. In the first part he considered Lessing's theological writings and religious controversies; in the second, characters and drama, discussing the question whether Lessing has reached in his drama the high ideal established in his theological writing. Only part of this paper was read, so that any discussion of Prof. Primer's conclusions here would rather anticipate the complete publication of the paper in the *Proceedings* of the Association.

The first paper of the afternoon, and final session of the Convention, was read by Dr. Thomas P. Harrison, of the Johns Hopkins University, it being "A Study of the Middle English Poem, 'The Pystyl of Susan.'" The three MSS. in which the poem is found were described, and the dialect as bearing upon its origin was discussed. The question of authorship, and the claims of 'Huchown of the Awle Ryale'—possibly Sir Hugh of Eglinton—were considered. A discussion of the style of the poem—its verse-structure and general characteristics—closed the paper. The work is introductory to a collated text and a glossary, which as yet have never been prepared for the poem.

Dr. Henneman opened the discussion. He called attention to several important matters in former work on this poem, and agreed with Trautmann's results, but protested against his methods.

Mr. L. E. Menger, of the Johns Hopkins University, read a paper on "Irregular Forms of Possessive Pronouns in Italian." The special

object of the paper was to give an explanation of the irregular plural forms, *mia, tua, sua*, which occur with such frequency in the autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini. The different explanations of these forms which have been held so far were discussed, and on the basis of an exhaustive study of Tuscan texts between the years 1230 and 1595, Mr. Menger came to the conclusion that the forms in question are remnants of Latin neuter plural forms.

The last paper was on "J. G. Schottel's Influence on the Development of the Modern German Schriftsprache" by Prof. von Jagemann, of Harvard University. Among the many interesting points which the paper brought out, the influence of Schottel upon the vocabulary of German was made very prominent.

On account of the lateness of the hour, discussion on the two preceding papers was limited, and the Association adjourned to meet again in Washington during the Christmas holidays of 1893.

The number of papers presented was unusually large, and they differed from those of previous years in being, in almost every case, statements of the results of original research. There were no pedagogical studies, with the exception of one or two papers that might be construed as such. This tendency is regarded as deplorable by some members of the Association. The discussions of the papers were interesting, and it was proposed to limit henceforth the number of papers, that more time may be devoted to discussion.

The social aspects of the meeting were as prominent and profitable as usual. In the intervals between sessions, at the University and in the lobby of the hotel (Ebbitt House), personal intercourse among the members contributed much to that bond that unites scholars of like aim and purpose. The Association was also handsomely entertained on Thursday evening at the residence of Prof. A. Melville Bell, President of the Phonetic Section.

The Association was reluctantly compelled to accept the resignation of its zealous and indefatigable Secretary, Prof. A. M. Elliott, the real founder of the organization. This regret was, however, mitigated by the judicious promotion of Dr. James W. Bright to the

secretaryship, and by the appointment of Dr. John E. Matzke treasurer.

The attendance at the meeting was large, and it was considered one of the most successful meetings the Association has held.

THOS. P. HARRISON.

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*IMMEDIATE AND ULTIMATE
SOURCE OF THE RUBRICS AND
INTRODUCTIONS TO THE
PSALMS IN THE PARIS
PSALTER.*

In Thorpe's Preface to his edition of the Anglo-Saxon translation of the Psalms¹—the so-called Paris Psalter—we find the following statement with reference to the Latin rubrics which regularly head the Psalms in this version, p. 6: "Ex rubricis Latinis plurimae adeo scatent barbarismis, ut vix intelligi possint."

It will probably be of interest to future editors of the Paris Psalter to know that the Latin rubrics referred to in the passage quoted, with the exception of a few cases of adaptation and still fewer of absolute divergence, which I shall note below, are taken verbatim from the *argumenta* of the voluminous commentary entitled "*In Psalmorum Librum Exegesis*" and formerly ascribed to the Venerable Bede. This commentary, which I shall cite simply as *Exegesis*, is included in all the earlier editions of Bede's collected works but is now most accessible in Migne's 'Patrologiae Latinae Cursus Completus,' vol. xciii, pp. 478-1098.

The arguments which accompany each psalm in the above-mentioned commentary consist regularly of two divisions, the first of which presents a historical interpretation of the particular psalm and the second, in closer conformity to the mediaeval spirit, a mystical interpretation, according to which the Psalm is conceived as the voice of Christ, or the Church, or the Apostles, or what not. Now, the Anglo-Saxon adapter does not anywhere attempt to reproduce these arguments in full. He simply contents himself with reproducing sentences,

¹ 'Libri Psalmorum, Versio Antiqua Latina; cum paraphrasi Anglo-Saxonica partim soluta oratione partim metricè composita nunc primum descripsit et edidit Benjamin Thorpe. Oxonii, e typographeo Academico, mdcccxxxv.'